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# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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2008 Collegiate Network  
*Paper of the Year*

## Vice Mayor Haulman criticizes students, ‘drunks’

**Bryan Callaway**  
Staff Writer

Revising Williamsburg’s three-person rule was at the heart of last week’s city council meeting on November 13. The meeting took place three days after a work session on the issue in which city residents vehemently decried

the possibility of revisions to the ordinance.

At the center of this discussion was whether the Williamsburg City Council should recommend revisions of the three-person rule to the Williamsburg Planning Commission. The proposed changes would allow for up to four unrelated individuals to live together under certain circumstances. How exactly these circumstances are to be defined would be the work of the Planning Commission and an affiliated focus group.

During the meeting, each council member voiced differing opinions regarding the proposed amendment to the rule. For most, the issue has not been the number of unrelated individuals living in a single residence, but rather the problems that their residency creates for neighborhoods.

The most vocal on the issue was Vice Mayor and College Economics Professor Clyde Haulman, who lambasted students living off-campus as well as the College administration’s negligence. Mr. Haulman also attacked the College’s Steer Clear Program. At the council meeting, he asked, “And what is the College’s response to all this [negative student behavior]? To provide the ‘Drunk Van,’ what’s called the Steer Clear

program that provides rides...for those too drunk to stagger the three to four blocks back to campus. The College can do better than this...”

Mr. Haulman also voiced several complaints regarding off-campus drinking including “shouts and cursing at all hours of the night” and 200 person parties that “make sleeping impossible.” However, the day before, in a student meet-and-greet sponsored by Students for a Better Williamsburg, he said that he would not mind if neighboring students had parties as long as they talked with their neighbors beforehand.

At the forum, Mr. Haulman further expressed his hope that the council recognizes the merits of revising the three-person rule, as well as the protracted nature required to bring about such a change. “Change could happen this spring if everything moves forward, but in order to do that *all* stakeholders must be involved.”

At the council meeting, Mr. Haulman further expressed distaste at the College having turned a “blind-eye” to the misbehaving of off-campus students, even hinting at the fact that the College athletics department should have some sort of “oversight” in regards to parties at the “football, soccer and field hockey houses.”

After Mr. Haulman’s remarks, Mayor Jeanne Zeidler described her meeting with College President Taylor Reveley on the morning of November 13.

**HAULMAN & WCC**  
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Alec McKinley

### Professors for a better Williamsburg?

Economics professor Clyde Haulman spoke about town-gown relations and the possible evolution of the much maligned three person rule at a recent meeting with the Students for a Better Williamsburg political action committee.

### Notable quotes at City Council Meeting, November 13

“The College has consistently turned a blind eye to the impacts while we all celebrate the positive impacts the College and students have on the city...and I do that everyday”  
- Vice Mayor Haulman

“Virtually every neighborhood has experienced the types of 200 people parties or more. Shouts and cursing at all hours of the night. Drunks vomiting and urinating on lawns and bushes, trash littering entire blocks.”  
- Vice Mayor Haulman

“We should also include the business community [in the dialog]...we can’t allow the deterioration of the inner city to affect our tourism”  
- Councilwoman Judy Knudson

“Councilman Haulman’s images were maybe not pleasant but I’d like to offer the other side of the issue.”  
- Councilman Paul Freiling

“Maybe there should be more conversation about the Amethyst Initiative”  
- Councilman Paul Freiling

“The possible amendment to allow four unrelated persons to live together does not get rid of all the behavioral issues we’re hearing here”  
- Mayor Jeanne Zeidler

## Student funding for new Miller Hall buried in facility fee

**Kristin Coyner**  
Opinion Editor

All undergraduate and graduate business students at William and Mary now pay \$300 a year to finance the future home of the Mason School of Business, Alan B. Miller Hall. This fee is drawn in \$150 allotments each semester from the \$363.50 facility fee paid in the both the fall and the spring. The \$300 paid by each student is applied to support bonds on the new building’s debt. According to Vice President for Finance Sam Jones, students will continue to pay the fee at this level for the duration of the bonds.

Discussion by the Board of Visitors raised the possibility of increasing the facility fee as a way to fund the College’s contribution to new business school when the building was initially proposed. Approval for the inclusion of \$150 into the facility fee would have “occurred at both the April 2007 and April 2008 board meetings where the Board of Visitors were asked to approve tuition and fees for the next year,” said Mr. Jones. This increase in the facility fee was actually phased over two years, with the first year that students funded

Miller Hall being the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Mr. Jones noted that the Miller Hall funding followed the track laid out by the new Integrated Science Center (ISC), but that with the ISC, state funds were leveraged instead of private funds. “The College used a similar approach in achieving the funds necessary to support construction of the Integrated Science Center. In that case, the ISC is a \$64.9 million project funded by the state of Virginia (\$43.4 million), \$1.4 million

in private funds and \$20.1 million in bonds supported by student fees,” he said.

The College has mainly emphasized the private nature of the funding underwriting Miller Hall, with two-thirds of the building’s \$75 million cost being covered by private sources. Specifically, \$50 million of this projected \$75 million total cost is being covered by \$25 million in private cash gifts, and \$25 million in bonds. The debt will be paid off with additional private funds. Discussion of the exact source of the College’s contribution to Miller Hall, which will amount to \$25 million, has not been widely noted. *The Informer* has learned that a conspicuous lack of public discussion about the student contributions in the form of the facility fee has been a source of discontent among some faculty members outside of the Mason School of Business.

This is in part due to the fact that the College’s financial operations Web site does not specify precisely what the facility fee goes to. In contrast, general fees, which amount to \$1,668 paid by all students, are dissected on the financial operations

site. Money generated from the general fee is allocated to such things as the \$629.50 athletic fee, a \$29.00 charged for bus services and even a \$12.50 fee for debt services on William and Mary Hall, to name a few services supported. In response to a lack of similar transparency in the facility fee, Vice President Jones stated, “We should be able to include a footnote similar to that used for the general fee to give a more detailed breakdown.”

There are actually a number of other building projects which have their support tied into the facility fee. Other projects supported under the facility fee umbrella “include debt service for the College’s share of the Integrated Science Center, a portion of the land purchase associated with acquiring the Williamsburg Hospital site for the School of Education, the renovation and expansion of the student recreation center, campus utility improvements and a couple of small scale athletic projects,” said Mr. Jones. However, more than 80 percent of the \$363.50 of the facility fee actually goes to support debt service for three

**BUSINESS SCHOOL FEE**  
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Alec McKinley

**Concrete Plans:** The construction of the Miller Hall is aided in part by student fees to the amount of 300 dollars per year.

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# Michael Powell considers letter from SA a ‘hoax’

Ian Kirkpatrick  
Assistant News Editor

At the November 11 senate meeting, Vice President of the SA Kristin Slawter ('09) shared that Rector Michael Powell had received a letter issued by the Student Assembly as a ‘joke’. The letter was issued by an SA bill rebuking the lack of student consultation in decisions by the BOV, including the appointment of Taylor Reveley to be college President. Ms. Slawter explained that according to Rector Powell “it looked like a hoax,” and was not on official letterhead, or signed.

Senators Brittney Fallon ('11) and Ben Brown ('11) introduced the Outdoor Recycling Containers Act, which passed, allocating \$7,034 for 13 recycling receptacles on old campus and the UC terrace. Ms. Fallon explained that “proper bins are crazy expensive...but they’re made of rubber coated steel and last for years.” SEAC and APO, which maintained recycling bins in academic buildings last year, will be emptying them.

Senator Matt Pinsker ('09) asked, “Why isn’t the money being taken out of green fees, isn’t that what they’re there for?” Senator Michael Douglass ('11) explained that he met with SEAC “and they’re trying to establish a green endowment... [this recycling program] is something the school doesn’t have money for, we do.”

Senators discussed the Club Connection Act whose aim is to get the SA closer to the students by having them attend club meetings of all organizations at least once a month. Senator Matt Beato ('09) thought the resulting “demand for senators will help us out a lot.”

The Senate also discussed how the Honor Council referendum was defeated 270-234 in the recent election. “It’s debatable how well publicized it was,” said Senator Steven Nelson ('10). Mr. Nelson, who is co-sponsoring a bill regarding the referendum with Mr. Douglass and Senator Stef Felitto ('12) insisted there were “a lot of suspicious things pulled out.”



Alec McKinley

**Working hard or hardly working:** Student Assembly members meet to discuss topics ranging from the new recycling bin initiative to Rector Powell’s reception of said legislature as a joke due to the absence of letterhead.

The Senate also proudly said that they used all the hot cider on Election Day, and that 500-700 students were driven to the polls by Senator Brown and others. A police tailgate was also announced with an FAQ session, featuring police in

plain clothes so “they seem like normal people.” There will be no alcohol, “but it should be fun.” Mr. Nelson mentioned that the Amethyst Initiative founder will speak this Thursday, after the death of his father a few weeks ago.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Assistant Opinion Editor

### “Dancing with the Stars” competition raises money for charity

On Tuesday, November 11, the Ballroom Dance Club hosted their “Dancing with the Stars” charity event at the Sadler Center. Members of the club teamed with SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09), President of the Class of 2009 Kevin Dua, SA Sen. Walter McClean ('09), Colleen Kennedy ('10), Laura Heymann, David Ware ('73) and Katie Watson ('07). The dances were judged by professional dancers, Professor Jelinek, President Reveley and the audience.

### Tribe football nationally ranked

For the first time since 2004, the William and Mary football program is nationally ranked in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (I-AA). As of this writing, the team is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> nationally, with an overall record of 7-3 and a conference record of 5-2.

### College receives nearly \$2M to develop math, science teachers

The College received grants of \$1.17 million from the Department of Education to establish the Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow fellowship and \$750,000 from the National Science Foundation to found the Noyce Scholars Program. The grants will be administered by

the School of Education and the School of Arts and Sciences, respectively. The TCT grants will support undergraduate research and summer internships in K-12 science education for 50 students, and courses that will be developed for the undergraduate catalog that will attempt to direct science, technology and math majors into the teaching profession. The Noyce grant will provide 33 students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels with scholarships and internship opportunities in exchange for two years of service at a high-needs public school after graduation.

### Stewart plugs W&M on election night

Jon Stewart ('84), host of the wildly popular news satire program *The Daily Show*, let out a cheer of “Go Tribe!” during Comedy Central network’s Indecision 2008 election special. Mr. Stewart gave the endorsement to his alma mater while announcing election returns that showed that Sen. Barack Obama was likely to carry the state of Virginia.

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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Founders

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*The Virginia Informer* is an independent, non-partisan, student run publication devoted to reporting the news to the William and Mary community. We exist to provide an alternative to school sponsored news sources. We do not, and never will, receive any financial support from the College of William and Mary. We will not shy away from controversy or be afraid to challenge the norm. We strive to inform and engage our readers via responsible journalism and in-depth reporting, while fostering and giving voice to opinions that are often shut out by the campus establishment.

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# Athletics fee in students' bill increases \$106 from last academic year

Steven Nelson  
News Editor

Each semester students receive a bill to pay the tuition and fees required to attend William and Mary. Various fees are individually listed on the bill, including the “save a professor” fee, which takes a few dollars from students to help retain quality faculty. Most fees are not individually listed, and are included in the single designation “tuition and fees.” Included in this grouping is the large athletic fee.

William and Mary’s athletic fee, a uniform charge required of all in-state and out-of-state students, finances much of Tribe Athletics. From last year the annual fee has increased from \$1,153 per student to \$1,259. The increase of \$106 was explained to *The Informer* by Vice President for Finance Sam Jones and Athletics Director Terry Driscoll.

According to Mr. Jones, “Factors driving the fee increase included support for salaries, the increased cost of student grants-in-aid driven by increased cost of attendance, and increased operating costs associated with the opening of new facilities.”

Mr. Driscoll affirmed these reasons and noted in particular the increase in student tuition. Athletic scholarships are paid for by the athletics department to the school. The funding required to cover the scholarships increased 11 percent from the last year due to the rising cost of tuition. Scholarships for football and men’s basketball are not provided from the athletics fee but funded privately. The fee does provide scholarships for what are termed “Olympic” sports, which according to Mr. Driscoll include most others, which are without private means of funding.

*The Informer* provided a comparison between William and Mary’s athletic fee and those of other state institutions in an article last year. At the time, the College’s fee was \$1,259, compared with \$607 at the University of Virginia and \$232 at Virginia Tech. Mr. Driscoll attributed the vast difference to those schools being on “a

different economic climate”; he mentions that at UVA and Tech, millions of dollars are raised through television, ticket sales and from money awarded by the NCAA.

A more apt comparison to William and Mary athletics, said Mr. Driscoll, is James Madison University. Athletics at JMU are financed largely through the athletic fee charged to students, and Mr. Driscoll stated that 92 percent of their athletics funding is from the fee, whereas only 51 percent of athletics programs at the College are funded through the athletics fee. “William and Mary is operating its athletics program prudently... the fee has remained the same in relation to tuition for 20 years,” he said.

Mr. Driscoll disagreed with criticism of the athletic fee as being contrary to the academic mission of the College. He cites in support a report released a few years ago by the athletics task force, which he says came to the conclusion that the balance between athletics and academics is right at William and Mary.

“It is important to understand [that] the administration has chosen to maintain a program of 23 sports... it is important that we both bring in qualified students and graduate them,” said Mr. Driscoll, which he indicates is evident in high graduation rates.

English Professor Terry Meyers has long proposed including the athletics fee separately on student bills, as the “save a professor” expense is currently. The Student Assembly is considering whether to encourage the college administration to pursue this route.

When asked about the possibility of listing all fees on student bill, Chairman of the SA Senate Walter McClean (’09) said,



File Photo

**Show me the money:** Athletic fees, which have increased 106 dollars from last year, are one of the expenses that are not specifically broken down in the bills that William and Mary families receive each semester. Compared to peer institutions such as UVA and Virginia Tech, WM fees are much higher

“The cost of these fees is very contentious but [making] them being public knowledge should not be. No one should be afraid of better publicizing fees.”

Mr. Jones says that there have been efforts to increase transparency in billing by making

fees not individually listed on bills available online, with a reference to the website on bills. He has suggested that he may revise the information on the Web site to make its format easier to read for students and parents.

## Veterans Day celebrated on campus

# Paintless paintball tournament draws students



Kerin McRory

**Artistic ammunition:** The recent paintball tournament, sponsored by the Veterans Society of the College and funded by the SA, resulted in high student turnout as well as a one hundred dollar donation to the Toys for Tots charity group.

Alexander Powell  
Staff Writer

The student Veterans’ Association held an event honoring veterans past and present on Sunday, November 9, in the Sunken Gardens. The event featured student bands, a *capella* groups and a performance from the Pershing Rifles. Refreshments were provided by California Tortilla, who gave out coupons for use at their New Town location. There were booths run by the Jewish Student Association, the Latino Student Association and the William and Mary Veterans’ Association, all of which extolled the virtues and sacrifices of their respective ethnic groups and presented lists of medals earned by members.

There was also a booth set up by the College Republicans with a large poster that students could sign to express their thanks to the troops. Army and Navy recruiting booths were also present, along with a local regiment displaying

their colors.

The main attraction, however, was the “paintless” paintball tournament, which featured a large inflatable arena dubbed “The Megarena.” Inside two opposing teams could duke it out with rubber balls. However, “paintless” does not necessarily mean “painless,” as the rubber balls were hardly as forgiving as the name might imply. All in all the event appears to have been a great success. “Paintball is fun. Sunday’s showing proved that,” said organizer Lance Zaal (’09). In keeping with the Veteran’s Day’s theme of selfless sacrifice, the winning paintball team donated all of their prize money to Toys for Tots.

If the size of the paintball lines were any indication, the student body at large had a great time at the event. “It is a great way to honor our troops, have fun and involve the college community,” said student Will Clements (’11).



# Sergeant Cheerleader set to wrap before winter break

Michelle Ju  
Features Editor

Pom-poms and military gear, balance beams and combat boots -- these are the ingredients of a quirky film that combines the best of two worlds: cheerleading and ROTC. Matt Pinsker ('09), the screenwriter and executive producer of *Sergeant Cheerleader*, sat down to update *The Virginia Informer* on the film's status and to give an inside scoop on two highly anticipated cameos by some of the biggest names in the administration.

*Sergeant Cheerleader*, which is loosely based on Mr. Pinsker's own experiences, is directed by Thomas Baumgardner ('09), and has been guided through production by theater professor Fonkijom Fusi, who provided the filmmakers with high-definition equipment, cameras and sound system.

The romantic comedy tells the story of Will, a dedicated ROTC cadet, who manages to get finagled into joining the cheerleading squad, captained by his love interest, Mary. The film pokes fun at the boundaries of what is acceptable and what is not for modern men, especially those in uniform.

"Will faces pressure from his

ROTC squad, who is not terribly pleased at Will for joining the cheerleading squad. They see it as unmanly -- 'gay.' Two seemingly opposite activities at play, or two different worlds colliding," said Mr. Pinsker.

Though the film is an amateur work, Mr. Pinsker pointed out the merits of its humble roots as a student-developed, William and Mary original film. *Sergeant Cheerleader* was shot on a low budget, and was not made for profit. However, Mr. Pinsker expressed hopes that the film would garner enough funds to break even. "With the use of equipment, the student budget would be astronomical," he noted. "We're all spending a lot of time on it for free."

"I did the necessary pre-production work, found a director, Baumgardner. I handed off artistic direction to him. He's responsible for casting and re-writing the script in his own image."

There was a difference of opinions in production, however. "[The director and I] clashed constantly in artistic production. I took up role of the executive producer, like the business aspects. We have a great working relationship, though we don't always see eye-to-eye."

*Sergeant Cheerleader* also represents the artistic culmination of Mr. Baumgardner's three-year experience as a filmmaker. As Mr. Pinsker said, "I'm a government major, and he's a film studies major. He's made many productions, theatrical and film. He wanted to take everything he's learned in the past three years and apply it to this production."

The film's schedule, though still tentative, has *Segeant Cheerleader* on track to finish shooting by the end of this semester. After the director wraps primary shooting, the production staff plans to splice the film together, edit the original musical score, and possibility re-shoot any scenes that may need touching up. At this time, there is no set date for its release; however, the team has reserved the UC Commonwealth auditorium in February for its primary screening. "We might push it back, depending on how editing goes," explained Mr. Pinsker.

In addition, President W.



Alec McKinley

**You got your hands full, bra:** *Sergeant Cheerleader*, the ROTC-meets-cheerleading epic from the mind of Matt Pinkser, inches towards its February premiere as filmmakers begin transitioning from filming to post-production.

Taylor Reveley and former Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler have accepted cameo roles in *Sergeant Cheerleader*.

"It's an incredible film. There hasn't been anything like this at the College, so we're glad to be

the first. We're hoping for the best but being realistic. After it's finished and we see quality, we might want to take it to a film festival. But as of now, our focus is on the William and Mary and the Williamsburg community," said Mr. Pinsker.

## Students vote against proposed Honor Code changes

Chris Ours  
Staff Writer

On November 5, students voted down proposed changes to the College of William and Mary's Honor Code. The changes would have drastically reorganized the format of the code, its definitions of lying, cheating and stealing, and would have given the Council of Chairs more power over the amendment process with regards to procedural matters.

Only 501 students voted in the school wide referendum, facilitated by the Student Information Network. The final vote was 231 for and 270 against the proposed changes. The small voter turnout can be compared to the referendum on, for example, Green Fees at the College, in which 1,605 students participated.

Students were notified about the referendum via campus-wide emails from both SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09) and Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler ('88, PhD '06).

SA Sen. Steven Nelson ('10) attributes the low turnout to a lack of student awareness. "Almost nobody knew what was being changed and fewer people knew there was even an election," said Mr. Nelson.

Many students admitted to not voting for similar reasons. "I knew so little about it that my vote

would have been pretty horribly uninformed," said Stephen Salvato ('10).


A lack of campus-wide input about the honor code revisions was also an obstacle. The Honor Council made available through their Web site the complete current and proposed Honor Code. They also hosted two forums in order for students to discuss the proposed changes. Both were poorly attended.

The most important change to the code concerned the amendment process. The proposed changes would have given more power to the Council of Chairs who would have required only the approval of the attorney general and president of the College to amend the Honor Code regarding procedural matters. Formal changes that redefine lying, cheating and stealing would still require campus-wide student approval.

"I consider the 'no' vote a huge victory for our rights, transparency and democracy on campus," Mr. Nelson said.

Honor Council Chairman Matt Dinan ('09) spoke in favor of the changes, saying, "The idea was to make it so there would be more procedural flexibility."

The result of the failed referendum is the continuance of the current version of the Honor Code, which was last amended in 1997.



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# Reveley believes Iraq War constitutional

**Steven Nelson**  
News Editor

President Taylor Reveley returned to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law on November 12 to lecture on constitutional war powers. “I need to come back every now and then to re-charge my spiritual batteries,” opened Mr. Reveley, who recently served 13 months as co-director of the National War Powers Commission of 2008.

Mr. Reveley is regarded as an expert on the subject of war powers, becoming one of the first scholars to focus on the matter. His interest began following a project during his last semester at the University of Virginia’s law school in 1968. He found that there was very little writing on war powers after considering a hypothetical gridlock between the president and Congress over the Vietnam War’s conduct.

Since the inception of the US Constitution in 1789, there have been over 200 uses of military force by the United States according to Mr. Reveley. “Whenever our country uses force for a sustained period of time questions emerge to who has the power to make war and peace,” he said.

Since his study and writing on the war powers began in the late 1960s, debate on the issue has proliferated, with scholars arguing either for the president’s power or the Congress’ power. “The contending scholars certainly would have burned opponents at the stake,” said Mr. Reveley, noting a period of intense disagreement within the academic community.

Almost all uses of American military force have been based on attack-response justifications, he said, though such evidence may be scant. The Iraq War is unique in that it was not in response to an attack, but pursued solely with the intent of regime change, which incited a new debate over

the governmental distribution of war powers.

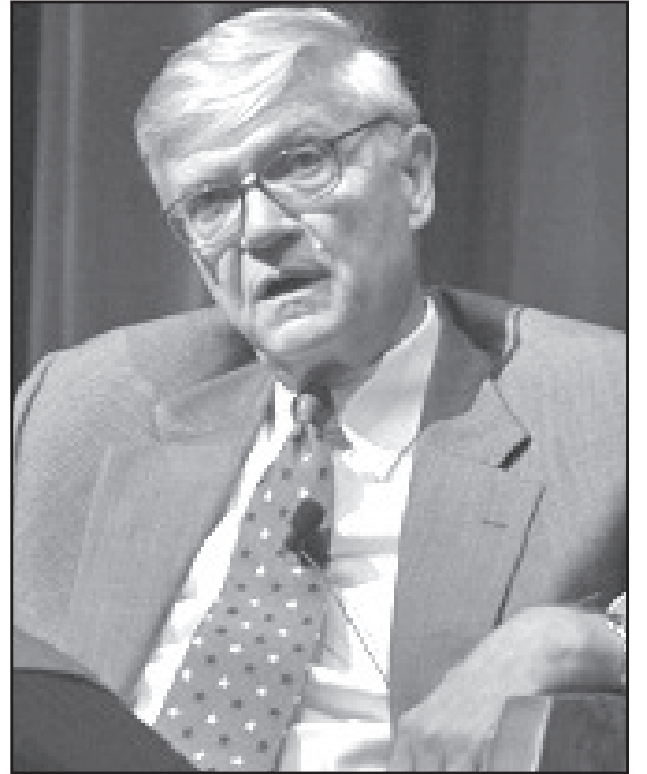
Mr. Reveley acknowledged at one time reading every word of the framers’ constitutional debate. “These people assured Congress would approve all action, unless an immediate attack.” The text of founders’ intent “tilts overwhelmingly towards Congress,” said Mr. Reveley, though “presidential war powers have expanded exponentially.”

The 1973 War Powers Resolution, passed by Congress over the president’s veto, is considered by Mr. Reveley “an abject failure,” though successful in asserting eroded Congressional authority. The 2008 National War Powers Commission was undertaken to review this resolution and recommend changes.

The commission was based at the University of Virginia and comprised of 12 members, divided between Democrats and Republicans and co-chaired by two former secretaries of state. Mr. Reveley co-directed the bipartisan effort.

A major recommendation issued in a report by the commission is the establishment of a joint congressional committee made up of the congressional leadership. The joint committee would be supported by a professional non-partisan staff, with access to all intelligence information. This would provide the president with input from leaders who are fully informed, hold significant political power and are not employed by the executive.

Mr. Reveley described the proposal as having been well received by both President-Elect Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain during the presidential campaign. He is very optimistic that the proposal may be enacted by Congress and Mr. Obama, though acknowledges that if the committee is created, it has to evolve through mutual trust and communication between both parties.



Alec McKinley

**War Powers:** College President Reveley worked on the National War Powers Commission to review the controversial 1973 resolution.

Following his lecture, a student asked whether the Iraq War was “illegal,” as some critics have alleged. Mr. Reveley answered, “This is absolute child’s play in comparison [to other conflicts]. There is absolutely no question that the second Iraq War was authorized by Congress.” Although the issue of international law was noted, Mr. Reveley said, “I don’t put any credence into the argument that this is an unconstitutional war.”

## Fall of the fourth delly: Mama Mia to relocate after 29 years of service

**Phillip Mariscal**  
Staff Writer

Students now looking to indulge their taste buds at what many have called the fourth delly will have to revert back to Paul’s, the Green Leaf or the College Delly. Mama Mia’s has officially closed.

A paper towel taped to the window is now all that welcomes disoriented customers to this once-famed Williamsburg hot spot, which has served students since 1979. It reads: “Thank you for your support all these years.”

The delly’s impending bulldozing, the result of recent rezoning, will make way for 10,500 square feet of commercial space and seven residential units.

Two residential apartments sit above Mama Mia’s, one of which is shared by cab drivers and brothers,

George and Spiro Venieris. The Venieris brothers will have three to four months to find new lodging. However, Mr. Venieris isn’t concerned. “Why is it a bad thing?” he asked. “This is progress.”

Mr. Venieris pointed out the vacant house on 203 Armistead, next to Mama Mia’s, which will also be demolished making way for the new office and residential space.

A public notice of the Williamsburg Planning Commission states that the removal of the current structures will create a vision for Prince George Street and Armistead Avenue more consistent with Merchant’s Square, and will include newly constructed brick sidewalks.

Students can still find a robust cheese Stromboli or cheeseburger at the new Mama Mia’s location at the Short Stop on 7123 Merrimac Trail, where they will offer carry out and delivery orders.



Alec McKinley

**Ended pastabilities:** The closing of Mama Mia’s means that its unique dining experience will become a historical souvenir in line with the very nature of Colonial Williamsburg.

## Student gets severe punishment for firecracker violation

**Steven Nelson**  
News Editor

Fraternity units often serve as magnets for the William and Mary Police. Earlier in the semester, police were in the units complex when a resident lit a small firecracker on a fire escape.

The incident occurred with few students in the vicinity. The student who lit the firecracker was approached by police officers and acknowledged responsibility. He was not charged with a crime, but the officers wrote an incident report.

Dean David Gilbert, head of the College’s Student Conduct Office, received the incident report and organized a meeting with the student. The student, a senior with no prior record of behavioral issues, attended the meeting and opted for an informal resolution of the infraction with which he was charged.

An important packet containing student rights information was not given to the student prior to his opting for an informal resolution, in which he repeated that he was responsible for lighting the firecracker.

Punishment from the dean was as follows: The student was

required to perform 50 hours of community service, ordered to leave on-campus housing and was given a permanent behavioral record by being assigned probation through graduation. The charge was “endangering health and safety” under the school’s weapons, firearms, fireworks and explosives policy.

Mr. Gilbert was unable to comment on the particulars of the case, but said, “We view lighting fireworks as endangering the health of the individual...as well as others...[and] we simply cannot tolerate behavior that creates a safety risk in our residence halls.”

The student appealed the sanctions given for the offense. When opting for an informal resolution, students give up their right to challenge particular charges of which they are found guilty, providing only the ability to challenge the severity of punishment. The appeal was deemed to be without merit, and the student was forced from campus housing immediately.

Now living on the couch of a friend who lives off-campus, the students reflected on his situation, saying, “I definitely didn’t know the severity of fireworks laws in Virginia.”



## FEATURES

# Williamsburg boards provide integral voice, overlooked opportunity for students

**Jon San**  
Managing Editor

The boards and commissions of the Williamsburg City Council serve as important advisory groups on issues ranging from architecture (the Architectural Review Board) to zoning (the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals). Board and commission members are chosen by the city council after an application process and serve terms ranging in length from one to five years, with positions only opening when a term expires or a member resigns. Currently, all boards and commissions are staffed by Williamsburg residents and business owners; students are noticeably absent. But in a recent interview with *The Informer*, Mayor Jeanne Zeidler said, “It would be great to see students volunteer to serve on boards and commissions.”

Only one student has served on a Williamsburg board: Mark Rose, an alum of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, was a member of the Planning Commission during his time as a student. He also lived in Williamsburg, which made attending the year-round, once-a-month meetings feasible. Are the obstacles too great for another student to serve on a commission, or is it simply that such an opportunity for local government participation has been overlooked?

Present at the recent Williamsburg City Council meeting on November 13 was David Witkowsky ('11), an Economics major who is seeking to follow in Mr. Rose's footsteps and gain a seat on one of the boards. However, the commitment is not a light one, as Mr. Witkowsky knows.

Williamsburg City Manager Jack Tuttle said, “Boards do not have barriers to participation by restricting appointments by affiliation or category, but some do have qualifications.”

The required experience varies between commissions and is usually obvious. For example, the Architectural Review Board



Alec McKinley

**Commissioned forum:** Sophomore David Witkowsky ('11) will be applying to one of Williamsburg's boards or commissions, the first student since Law school alum Mark Rose who was a member of the Planning Commission.

requires each member to fulfill a different role ranging from someone with a degree in architectural history or historic preservation to one with engineering experience. On the other hand, the Arts Commission, as described in the application form, does not require any specific skills or specialized credentials.

But general expectations for potential board members include a high degree of participation in civic activities and membership in social, business or spiritual groups. It is not unlike applications to join honor societies or social fraternities, which many College students have become exceedingly familiar with.

The largest obstacle to undergraduate students would be the year-round meetings that are obligatory. In fact, if a member attends less than 75 percent of scheduled meetings they are automatically removed

from their respective board. At a school where only a very slim minority of students are permanent residents of Williamsburg, how would potential student board members make meetings during the summer or winter break periods?

Mr. Witkowsky, originally from Radford, Virginia, has taken this into account. “I am applying fully aware of the fact that if appointed I will be spending time post-graduation here in Williamsburg. But this is where I consider my home to be now. So, with that being said, I intend to attend 100 percent of meetings, unless some sort of emergency was to arise,” he said.

His preferred board would be the Arts Commission, he said, “but they're full for the next few years. I'm considering perhaps the Regional Issues Board, or the Historic Triangle

Bicycle Association as well.”

Yet Mr. Witkowsky may be an exception to many students who call Williamsburg home for only four years. This would be especially difficult for the roughly 35 percent of William and Mary students that hail from outside of Virginia. However, perhaps it is telling that those most qualified for a board position are those willing to spend post-graduation time in Williamsburg.

And how do current board members view the possibility of sharing their group with students vastly younger than them? Doug Pons, chairman of the Planning Commission and owner of the Quarterpath Inn on York Street, is extremely receptive to such an idea. Mr. Pons actually served on the board with Mr. Rose while he was a law student and also supported Matt Beato's ('09) city council campaign this past spring. He said, “I do think students can make valuable contributions to any of the city's boards and commissions...and I also realize the significance of the student population in Williamsburg and conversely don't feel they should be ostracized.”

Interestingly enough, Mr. Beato contemplated applying for board membership after his unsuccessful run for city council but ultimately decided against it due to upcoming LSAT tests. However, Mr. Beato claims that the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals are “most important” for students, especially since both deal with the issue of the three-person housing rule. In fact, it is the Board of Zoning Appeals that accepts or rejects such appeals.

And with the city council recently deciding to send the issue of the possible amendment to the three-person rule — a rule that would allow four unrelated persons to live together given certain circumstances — to the Planning Commission, membership on that commission and the others is more important than ever before. Three Planning Commission members will finish their terms on December 31, 2009, and their positions will be available for the taking.

# College committees recognize student opinions, bridge gap with administration

**Sarah Nadler**  
Assistant Features Editor

College committees are a function of the provost's office and help craft policy and make key decisions. These committees are vital to the college because they allow the provost, vice president for student affairs, Honor Council and deans to hear student feedback on the policies that govern the College. Students have the option to apply for seats on these committees each spring semester and are notified over the summer of their assigned committee if accepted. The committees cover a plethora of issues on campus, everything from parking services appeals to admissions. There are currently over 80 undergraduate students on over 27 committees working with faculty, administrators and graduate students.

Some committees, such as the Library Policy Advisory Committee, only include two undergraduate students;

others, such as the Food Services Advisory Committee, consist of 16. Similarly, the Academic Calendar Advisory Committee meets once or twice a semester, while the Honor and Judicial Committee meet approximately four times a month. The majority of the student committee positions are filled by application, but some, such as the Commencement Policy Committee, have *ex officio* positions that are filled by designated student leaders such as the SA president. The Honor and Judicial Appeals Committee fills its 13 undergraduate spots by a separate application process through the dean's office.

Noteworthy also is the dynamic that exists among students, faculty and administrators. Alexa Hoyne ('10) who served on the Steering Committee for the 2007-2008 academic year said, “The dynamic was certainly quite collaborative. [...] Faculty not only welcomed my viewpoints but sought them out

and took note of the student perspective.” Katy Andell ('09) of the Food Service Advisory Committee had a similar view. She said, “The students' opinions are very important at these meetings, because we are dining services' target group, and what we feel matters.”

While listening and sharing feedback are important, students' decisions on these committees do result in visible change. For example, Ms. Andell credits her committee with the renaming of the “Gold Plus” meal plan to the “Freedom Plan” to make it more reflective of the actual options of that plan. Ms. Andell said, “We also work a lot with SEAC, and through those efforts, the Caf has gone trayless and compost was started. What we say in meetings might help determine whether or not the Sadler Center goes trayless, too.”

On the other hand, Ms. Hoyne investigated the effectiveness of GER 1 last year. The committee used pre- and post-tests to evaluate enhanced

knowledge. Ms. Hoyne helped “analyze the results and make recommendations to higher authorities.”

It is important to note that while some committees are extremely vigorous in creating policy, other committees are not as active. The Admission Policy Advisory Committee is an example of a campus committee has a role different from what most students perceive it to be. In fact, the committee only meets two or three times a year. The purpose of the Admission Policy Advisory Committee is to provide direct feedback on matters of admissions strategy and policy but is in no way related to, nor has any responsibility regarding, the admission decisions of applicants. The committee is meant solely for advising general policy. Todd Mooradian, former chair of this committee and associate professor at the Mason School of Business, specified: “The admissions folks have so much on-going

contact with students in other ways.” But in terms of actual responsibilities, the Admission Policy Advisory committee has been particularly active in the past concerning issues such as early admission policies and campus ambassadors programs. Mr. Mooradian feels the Admission Policy Advisory Committee should continue to exist despite the fact that it does not meet often. He noted, “I get the feeling that the admissions staff is now in such close and constant contact with students from all over campus that they don't really need me to call a meeting to find out what students think about some issue or another; nevertheless, it is always available if they need a change in policy ‘officially’ reviewed.”

Mr. Mooradian stated that he is “eager to hear any concerns and to get any ideas. If the students on the committee would like to have a meeting with these people or with me, that would be more than welcomed.”



## Marsannay pinot noir offers balance between price, taste

**Bryan Callaway**  
Staff Writer

We *all* have a friend named Chuck -- Two Buck Chuck that is. But with most Charles Shaw wines costing less than the corkscrew you use to open it, it couldn't hurt to try a more refined brand, right?

Considering that I am quite the opposite of a wine connoisseur, I deferred the question of how to best reach this new level of refinement to wine expert Brandon Smith ('09) of the Cheese Shop Wine Cellar. With Thanksgiving on the horizon, I decided to find a wine which would pair best with the occasion; a meal which Mr. Smith informed me could only be done justice with a pinot noir, a red wine which hails primarily from the Burgundy regions of France. Taking its name from the delicate grape from which it is created, pinot noir is best paired with light fish and meats such as and salmon and turkey, and offers a very well-balanced taste.

The bottle of choice, and the best value of the pinot noirs offered according to Mr. Smith, is the 2006 Marsannay from Burgundy. While I tend to prefer white wines over reds, this label does not disappoint and is ineffably better than my previous red wine experience which left a vinegar taste in my mouth for days -- but then again, what can you expect of something from Canada?

When I first tasted the Marsannay, I was very surprised, for it was as if all my preconceptions of red wine went out the window. This is a very fair and medium-bodied wine, and offers a surprisingly smooth and crisp taste. Although I do not doubt Mr. Smith's claim that this wine pairs perfectly for a Thanksgiving meal, we both agreed that the refreshing taste of this wine makes it a solid year-round choice. While this is by no means a sweet or sugary wine,



Alec McKinley

**Franzia strictly forbidden:** Cheese Shop wine specialist Brandon Smith ('09) helps customers decide what wines will best suit their tastes.

it does have a mild and appetizing raspberry flavor, which is surprising given its cherry aroma. This taste is counterbalanced by the wine's mild-acidity which balances surprisingly well with the raspberry flavor and provides a very consistent taste with a slightly tart finish.

Despite the fact that there is no question in my mind that a pinot noir makes for a great Thanksgiving complement, they do tend to be slightly pricier; however, the 2006 Marsannay is still a great buy at \$19.99 considering that 2006 was arguably the best year for pinot noirs from Burgundy. However, according to Mr. Smith, other good buys include Californian and Oregon pinot noirs and are in many ways a respectable rival to their French counterparts. So in that spirit, leave Chuck on the store shelf, grab a bottle of Marsannay and embrace your inner Frenchman.

*Editor's Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.*

## Apple store opens in Swem Library

**Aimee Forsythe**  
Staff Writer

Apple has arrived on campus. On Tuesday, November 4, William and Mary received its very own Apple store, which is located in the copy center on the second floor of Swem Library. As of now, the store will mainly sell MacBooks, iPods, a few accessories and some software. Eventually, however, it will expand to carry more supplies like cords and adaptors. The campus Apple store was the brainchild of Rebecca Bliley, who works in the ID office. She realized how hard it was for students to get around town without cars and wanted there to be a place on campus where students could get help with their Macs, which are currently not serviced by William and Mary IT. Many universities across the country now

have campus Apple stores, due in large part to a program whereby students can apply to become Apple campus representatives at their school. These stores allow for students, faculty and staff to get discounted prices and help with their Macs. Ms. Bliley hopes that as the William and Mary store grows, it will acquire a certified Apple technician and ultimately relocate to the Sadler Center.

Tim Murphy ('10) will be William and Mary's campus rep at the store. Over the summer he flew out

to California for training, which included courses in marketing and technical troubleshooting. If a student walks into the Apple store clueless, Mr. Murphy can easily give them a tour of a MacBook, tailoring it to highlight unique Apple programs that will make the student's life simpler.

Mr. Murphy comments that Apple applications are all very "intuitive," allowing for new users to operate their Macs with ease quite quickly. While he is not a certified technician, he can help students with some basic troubleshooting and recommend the best course of action for a student to take. Ms. Bliley plans to hire several more student workers over the next month.

The Apple store is currently open for business but its official grand opening should take place within the next few months.



Alec McKinley

**Steve Jobs meets Swem:** Apple has established its first Williamsburg branch on the 2nd floor of Swem library and will offer the usual Apple products.

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# William & Mary Dining

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Jeff Dailey

**Jeff Dailey**  
Staff Writer

This is a flawless nightcap which draws you in with its safe, delicious aromas and flavors.

- 1 ½ TBSP good strawberry jam
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- 2 oz Thunderbird

**Directions**  
Mix all three ingredients together, paying special care to making sure the jam fully melts and integrates into the tea. Smell, coddle, sip—repeat.

*Editor's Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.*

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# Green Leafe Underground projected to be nightlife hotspot

**Bert Mueller**  
Assistant News Editor

Students discontented by Williamsburg's tepid nightlife have reason for hope: The Green Leafe Underground. The Green Leafe Café recently grew a new branch in New Town, but according to Green Leafe co-owner Lindsey Gormley, things are on track for the Underground to open in the fall of 2009. Additionally, a group of undergraduate business students are working on this project for College credit with the Green Leafe. They are helping to refine the business plan and have conducted over 600 surveys with students to get an idea of what Tribe students want the Underground to be. This will be an "olive branch" to students, said Ms. Gormley, who acknowledged the friction in town-gown relations.

"Cosmopolitan," is how she described the proposed Underground. Think Manhattan or downtown DC – but in Williamsburg. This will be the place for intimate dinner dates as well as somewhere clubbers can call home after 10 pm. No lunch will be served, and the menu for dinner will be the same as the current Green Leafe Café selections. The décor will be plush and lounge-like. Chrome, reds and soft lighting will set the tone. A well-sized dance floor and stage will be main attractions – after the bar, undoubtedly. The 20-seat Underground bar will actually be bigger than the one currently in the Café. The Underground will serve the drinking age crowd for most nights of the week, but there are plans for one underage night per week. There would be a small cover fee on these nights to make-up for alcohol revenue and to pay for a DJ.

In addition to catering to students dissatisfied with the current frat unit lobby dance party scene, the Underground plans to host comics, bands and various other sorts of entertainment. With plans to install a top-quality sound system and lighting for the



Alec McKinley

**Shall we danceth milady?** Having a "cosmopolitan" nightclub in Colonial Williamsburg reems rather ironic and anachronistic.

stage, Ms. Gormley hopes that the Underground will attract not just Tribe students but also students from neighboring universities. Student bands, if good enough, may have chances to perform at the Green Leafe. Sororities and fraternities won't have to rent buses for transportation to formals; the Underground will be a setting, within walking distance, where formals can be held. Management is not worried about clientele bleeding from the Café as the Underground will cater to a different, younger clientele.

The Underground is being built in what used to be a Williamsburg bike shop, right next to the Green Leafe's downtown location. In the 1970s, this location was host

to the Rainbow Disco, during the short-lived disco craze. "Gay Nights" at the Rainbow Disco perpetuated a stereotype that lives on to this day: that the Green Leafe is actually a gay bar. Another Williamsburg location that was seized by the disco-craze market is the Cheese Shop. According to Professor Clay Clemens, who happened to be a student during the late 1970s, the Cheese Shop turned its basement into a disco. On the weekends, students could go to the Cheese Shop basement and dance to records of their favorite disco hits. "It was really campy," added Mr. Clemens. He thinks that the Green Leafe Underground has great potential, because it will be committed to its customers and will not be the manifestation of a passing fad.

The ailing economy has put a damper on production pace and Williamsburg's notoriously encumbering building codes have thrown wrenches – and added costs – into the process. But the Green Leafe would "rather get it right the first time" than rush the project. Starting on November 13, the Green Leafe will host DJ nights and open up its floor for dancing, a taste of what's to come. This will also help the management get a feel for how to run the Underground. As to how large the market is for such a club in Williamsburg, only time will tell, but given the dearth of college-oriented nightlife in Williamsburg, it could be a goldmine. Look for the Underground to open next fall.



Alec McKinley

**Saturday Night Fever starring Clay Clemens:** Unbeknownst to many students, during the 1970s the basement of the Cheese Shop was called the Rainbow Disco. One of the disco-dancers was Government professor Clay Clemens.



# A look back at student activism, reaction after Obama win

**Rachel Smith**  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

For the past two years William and Mary students have been active participants in the 2008 presidential election. Students for McCain rallied the troops by organizing events and passing out buttons and t-shirts to students in the William and Mary community. The interest group also worked in partnership with the McCain headquarters in the Williamsburg area, helping them rally the voters and distribute literature. The Young Democrats canvassed weekly in Williamsburg and Hampton Roads, targeting low turnout areas. The Student Assembly organized a shuttle system that would take students to and

from the polls all day until they closed. "This election brought a lot of focus to the power of youth and college-aged mobilization," reflected Mary Henin ('10). "It meant a lot to me to see that kind of passion in my peers especially at the College." For William and Mary students the election has symbolized the desire to transform the American government. After a long wait, extensive student involvement and preparation, the election finally arrived. November 4's drizzly fall weather did not stop William and Mary students from casting their ballots. Courtney Harris ('10) woke up early to avoid long lines at the Stryker Building. "My friends and I arrived at the poles at 6:00 am and finished voting in about one hour,"

he stated. Other students boarded the SA-sponsored buses, which took them to designated polling places to cast their ballots. Ayana Russell ('10) voted in her hometown of Newport News. "It was a good experience going to the polls. I stood in the rain at 5:45 am waiting to vote with my mother. We got in rather quickly and were done in no time," she stated. "I felt like I did my duty as a citizen when I voted. It felt like raw democracy -- nothing beats that."

Ballots cast, first time poll goers returned to campus wearing their "I voted!" stickers proudly. Not all students ventured through the rain to the Stryker Building. Many William and Mary students mailed absentee ballots to their home towns. "I voted absentee, but was still very excited when I filled out and mailed my ballot," stated Ms. Henin. "I did stop by the polls on Election Day to see what the energy was like, and was quite impressed by the student turn-out." Election day created an enhanced sense of community on campus. Everyone played their role in maintaining democracy by exercising their right to vote. Charles Kwenning ('10) perhaps sums it up best, saying that, "This election really rejuvenated our patriotism."

Ballots cast and absentee forms mailed, enthusiasm turned into anxious anticipation as students waited for the results of perhaps one of the most important elections in American history. Students gathered at various venues throughout campus to watch the 50 states change their hue. In Swem, students seated themselves around the big screen television, set the station to CNN, and watched the first of the results roll in. Two students, one clad in a white collared shirt and a blue bow-tie, clicked furiously on their laptops. They compared CNN's

results to other major news sources and kept their peers informed with the most recent updates. Swamped with pre-finals assignments, other students studied with one eye and one ear open as not to miss historical events. As more results came in and more states began to turn blue, the excitement soared. Barack Obama supporters put down their books and shut their laptops. Homework could wait; history was in the making. When CNN announced that Virginia was a blue state, students clapped and cheered, but their excitement would not match the uproar that erupted when Barack Obama's presidency was announced. As Wolf Blitzer stated that Obama had exceed the 270 electoral votes need to win a majority in the Electoral College, students began running around the lobby, hugging friends and strangers and calling parents.

Come January, Barack Obama will be the first African American to take up the oval office. Despite enthusiasm for this milestone, many students placed policy over race. Ms. Russell supported John McCain because, of the two candidates, his platform best reflected her views. "I voted strictly on the basis of policy," she stated. "Nothing more, nothing less." For Jillian Walton ('11), race played an important symbolic role in the election. "Election night was unexpectedly moving," said Ms. Walton. "I realized how deeply connected I am to the African American struggle for equality and how fortuitous Obama's victory is for not only the African American community, but to the preservation of America's diverse cultural identity." After the election, any William and Mary students, regardless of how they voted, stated that they felt that the election results represented a turning point in American race relations.



Alec McKinley

**Rain can't stop democracy:** While voters in some big cities waited upwards of four hours to cast their ballot, most Williamsburg voters only had to wait an hour at most.

## Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at *The Virginia Informer!*

## College protests Proposition 8



Alec McKinley

**Prop 8 Repercussions:** Students, faculty and other members of the Williamsburg community gathered near Confusion Corner on Saturday, November 15 to protest the passing of Proposition 8, which eliminated the right of same-sex couples to marry. November 15 was arranged to be the national day of protest against the proposition with gatherings occurring in most cities in every state.



# HAULMAN & WCC:

## Vice Mayor criticizes college students living off-campus

continued from page one

Ms. Zeidler praised President Reveley’s openness, saying she received “sincere, open response from the College that [it] will no longer turn a blind-eye but to work with students, neighbors and the city to address these issues and sort through what each of these groups can do for enforcement and behavioral improvement.”

Councilmember Paul Freiling (’83) suggested that there needs to be a higher level of enforcement and regulation and broader community organization, which should include asking the College to review its zero tolerance policy. “If we’re willing to have this conversation, maybe there should be more conversation about the Amethyst Initiative, and its longer community consequences,” said Mr. Freiling.

Following Mr. Freiling’s remarks, the city council entertained comments from residents in an open forum. The first resident to address the council was resident Charles Ridinger, who voiced his outrage over the council’s consideration of revising the three-person rule, stating that the election of Councilwoman Judy Knudson -- who took a hard line during her campaign in support of leaving the three-person rule as-is -- demonstrated how residents had already expressed their desire to leave the three-person rule unchanged. Resident Bill Tally offered a more supportive view, stating that the behavioral issues that are in question are not limited exclusively to students but non-student tenants as well.

The council voted unanimously to refer this issue to the Williamsburg Planning Commission for further analysis, as well as establish a focus group to study the viewpoints of all affiliated parties on any changes.

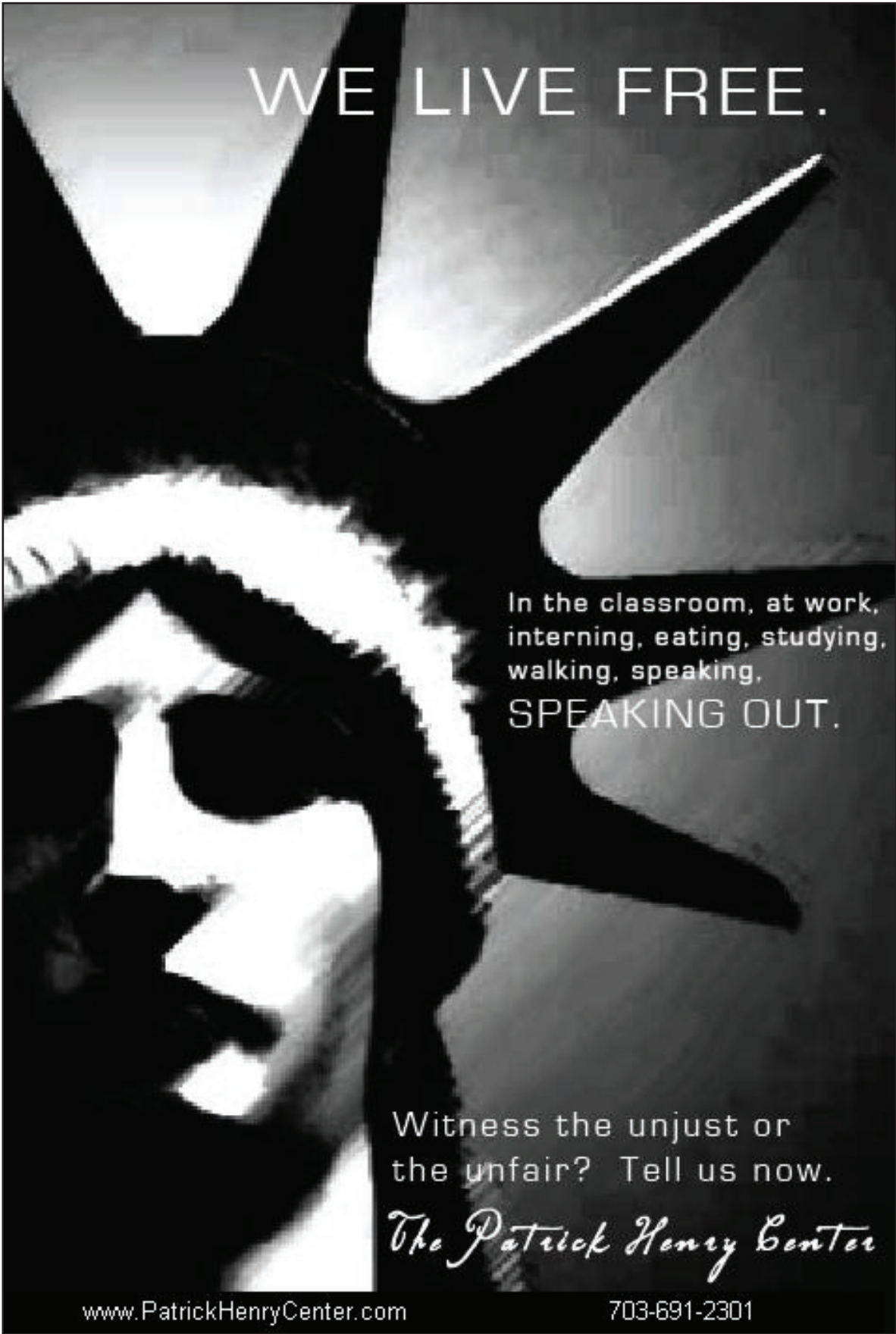
# BUSINESS SCHOOL FEE:

## Miller Hall expenses charged to students in facility fee

continued from page one

facilities: the Rec Center, the ISC and, now, Miller Hall.

This spring, the cost of full-time enrollment in the College rose 8.7 percent for in-state students and 8 percent for out of state students. Although tuition is often greatly emphasized in the public discussion stemming from increasing enrollment costs at the College, associated fee increases can also be a substantial burden on the rising price of a degree. Required fees for in-state undergraduates amounted to \$3,615 for 2007-08, while for this year, the cost of the fees rose to \$4,155. Similarly, 2007-08 brought about a jump in the fees paid by out of state students from \$3,824 to \$4,366.



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Promotional Photo

**But... this kid's not mine:** Angelina Jolie stars in Clint Eastwood's new film *Changeling* which depicts the corruption of the LAPD alongside a mother's loss of her son.

## Angelina Jolie captivates in Clint Eastwood's *Changeling*

**Patrick Macaluso**  
Movie Critic

As if *Mystic River*, *Million Dollar Baby*, and *Letters from Iwo Jima* weren't good enough, Clint Eastwood delivers another hard hitting drama with *Changeling*. The movie tells the story of Christine Collins, a single mother in the 1920s whose son is kidnapped. When a child is found and delivered to her by the Los Angeles Police Department, she vehemently denies that the child is her son, and the story continues with a plotline about a serial killer and LAPD corruption.

Angelina Jolie leads the outstanding cast as Christine Collins. It is wonderful to see that Jolie is returning to good scripts and good roles. Like sociopathic Lisa in *Girl, Interrupted*, Jolie nails this role dead on. She really became the woman whose son was taken from her, intensely radiating the emotion a mother in this kind of situation would feel. It is easily the most powerful role I have seen her in, and I will be appalled – not for the first time – at the Academy if she isn't nominated for Best Actress this year.

Clint Eastwood is famous for his

period pieces, and, once again, he has proven that he can do his homework with visual detail. The costumes, props, lighting, and general scenery were all well done and give the viewer a clear visual sense of the 1920s. It is by no means the most important aspect of the film, but it helps create something aesthetically astounding.

The film's most important aspect is, like every great movie, its themes. In this case, the most prevalent theme is the corruption of the Los Angeles Police Department. If gave me chills to know that the LAPD actually had people who were exposing their failures institutionalized. And this is a true story! Another theme this film explores is a mother's unconditional love for her child. The end scene of the film almost had me in tears.

This film was brilliant in so many ways, and Clint Eastwood proves yet again that he doesn't know how to make a bad movie. I am expecting this to be a contender for many awards this Oscar season. It is now the first time since 2004 that I will be saying this about a third film in one year – I give it an A.

## Jens Lekman connects with audience at UCAB concert

**Melissa Gomez**  
Contributor

From the moment Swedish indie pop musician Jens Lekman took the stage in Chesapeake A, the audience knew this concert was going to be a night to remember. The opening act, Sea Monster (a local band from Virginia Beach), had already started the festivities with a series of entertaining songs, including a sea shanty. But Lekman personalized the concert for us immediately after his first song by making a slightly unusual request. After asking that we keep any photos or videos from the evening private, he said, "I want it to be about you and me, not the rest of the world."

And the evening really was about him and the audience. Despite being one of hundreds at the performance, I felt like he was talking to me directly. His performance style, a mixture of songs and spoken word accompanied with guitar, helped create a much more relaxed feeling than the usual crazy concert

setting. Occasionally the audience would shout when he started to play a song they knew and loved, but even that didn't break the mood. His songs, though seemingly simple, ultimately were more complex and entertaining than at first listen. The pianist, Bill Wells, accompanied Lekman's guitar playing for a few songs.

The concert was a wonderful way to spend a Friday evening. Despite the large crowd, which caused standing room to be scarce, both Sea Monster and Lekman did their best to relate to the audience members. Sea Monster told the audience about how he was determined to have a song become a car commercial. Lekman talked about meeting Nina, his pen pal from Berlin, which was an encounter that evolved into his song "A Postcard to Nina." The atmosphere of the room was more like a coffee house -- with musicians and spectators on equal footing -- rather than an arena-like concert where the band and the audience are sharply divided.

## W&M Comix attracts creative minds

**Megan Locke**  
Arts and Culture Editor

The William and Mary Comix Club is the perfect student organization for those who love to create comics, write about comics, or even just appreciate the sequential art form. A mere two years after W&M Comix formed, they already have an active membership engaged in a multitude of activities that promote the art of comics on campus.

Club founder and President/Editor-in-Chief Candyce Collins ('09) says she "encourages all kinds of comic styles" in the club. Although the Japanese anime and manga style is quite popular in comics nowadays, W&M Comix stresses diversity in the art form and welcomes fans of any comic style to join.

The biggest club endeavor is publishing a magazine every semester. Issues include not only comics, but also short stories and reviews of comic books and manga. Every issue features a theme, with the upcoming December 2008 issue focusing on ghosts and ghost stories. Plans for their latest issue also include a games section and a contest for the magazine's readers. As reported previously in the *Informer*, W&M Comix applied for funding from the College's

Publication Council for their magazine, but was refused membership on the Council. They rely solely on club funds to publish the magazine.

Another project is the regularly updated club blog at <http://wmcomix.wordpress.com/>. In the blog, club members can "write about anything connected to the comics realm, such as pop culture and videogames," according to Collins.

Next semester the club is planning to host its first convention on March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Chesapeake Room of the Sadler Center. Game shows, cosplay (dressing up as comic characters), karaoke, and tables for students to sell artwork are some of the planned events. Food from around the world will be served, since the club wants to emphasize that comics are a global art form. They are currently looking for a speaker, such as a web comic artist, to give a guest presentation. The club is hoping to host the convention in collaboration with other arts, film, and multicultural clubs on campus, and invite the local community as well.

Interested students can come to W&M Comix Club meetings on Tuesdays in Blair 219 at 7pm. Submissions for the magazine are being accepted up until November 25. Contact [acool2@wm.edu](mailto:acool2@wm.edu) for more information about submissions.

### Book Review:

## New Alexander Hamilton book caters to history buffs, CW regulars

**Alexander Powell**  
Staff Writer

*American Machiavelli: Alexander Hamilton and the Origins of US Foreign Policy*, by John Lamberton Harper, is a look into the influence of Alexander Hamilton on American foreign policy. The book juxtaposes Mr. Hamilton with the similarly maligned yet highly influential historical figure Niccolo Machiavelli.

Mr. Harper, a professor of American Foreign Policy and European Studies at Johns Hopkins University, expertly parallels the two strikingly similar lives in good detail. One doesn't need to be very knowledgeable of 15<sup>th</sup> century Florentine politics to understand and appreciate the comparisons. Both Messrs. Hamilton and Machiavelli were wunderkinds of sorts; both lovers of classical virtue, both in favor of a *realpolitik* approach to foreign policy, and both of their reputations were ultimately destroyed by competitors who didn't understand them and cast them into the rouges' gallery of history.

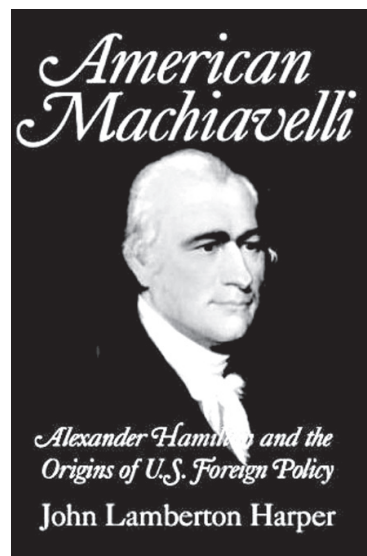
The main focus of *American Machiavelli* is naturally Hamilton and his time period. In this case, possessing some knowledge of the relevant history would be helpful for the reader. Mr. Harper gives the reader very little historical refresher before he plunges straight into the meat of the subject. Pages upon pages about historical figures most people don't ordinarily know about are quite common in his book. Of course, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and George Washington are major players, but lesser known figures like Governor Morris and

Timothy Pickering are prominently featured as well. It would be beneficial for the reader to know who these people are if they want to get the full impact of the book. Long story short: one should read Ron Chernow's epic Hamilton biography before reading this book, or take some courses on American Revolutionary and early Republican history.

The writing isn't the most gripping, and if one is looking for a historical page turner, read instead the very interesting and pleasantly written *American Creation* or *Founding Brothers* books that deal with the same time frame. Mr. Harper's writing is dense. Although it is 276 pages, this book can feel like a lot more, and this reviewer must confess that a few times late at night he found himself drifting off. That is not to say *American Machiavelli* is not recommended; it is just a warning that this book is a scholarly work first and an entertaining read second. It is not edutainment, but is straightforward education that some odd souls, myself included, find very entertaining.

This book is for the hardcore founding fathers fan. Since this is the College of William and Mary, a school where you can "meet" some of them and walk around

in the places they walked -- it's hard to go anywhere on campus without Thomas Jefferson staring you down -- there should be no shortage of students whom that label would include. It is a welcome addition to any American History or IR major's library. At the very least, you can read it and then impress your friends when you go down to CW and show off your mad olde tyme knowledge.





## The Finer Side:

# Holiday 2008: These are a few of my favorite things

The holiday season brings with it myriad parties, dinners, concerts and other important gatherings. This is not the season of stress, but instead, it's the season of opportunity. Get dressed up and be the star of the party, no matter what type of event you're at! Here are some of my favorite items to help you glow with holiday sparkle:

### Nars Lipstick

*NarsCosmetics.com, \$24*

I've never had a lipstick last so long. When you're going from class to dinner to a concert to the after-party, this will last as long as you do. It's been repeatedly named a Best of Sephora product, and with 47 different shades and textures, it's no wonder it has a cult following. Knock 'em dead at any party with the perfect pout.

### tarte Double-Ended Lipgloss

*TarteCosmetics.com, \$19*

Slip this in your book bag or purse. It's slim, trim and perfect for the holidays. Each lip gloss (all of which are named after infamous couples) has two colors perfect for transitioning from day to night, and can be worn alone or mixed for the perfect custom color. This gloss has staying power -- never sticky, but isn't easily worn off either. After using this gloss during the holidays, maybe you'll find yourself part of an infamous couple too!

### Sephora OPI Nail Lacquer

*Sephora.com, \$9*

When two make-up giants team up to create an amazing product, it makes for a nail polish you won't want to miss. Stun your friends with perfectly polished tips; whether it's with a traditional holiday red or a snowy white, your nails will be sure to

match your holiday spirit.

### Vincent Longo Wet / Dry Diamond Eye Shadow

*VincentLongo.com, \$24*

These little gems are quite possibly my favorite find from my time working retail. When brushed on dry, the colors go on muted; when wet, they sparkle for miles and go on like watercolors, so they last forever. Add some sparkle to your holidays with these eye shadows -- they're sure to make an impact at any Christmas party!

### The Body Shop Cranberry Body Butter

*TheBodyShop-USA.com, \$14*

This has been a favorite of mine for years -- no one makes lotion like the Body Shop. Their body butter is a favorite for dry skin during the middle of winter, and this scent in particular will make you feel like singing Christmas Carols all day. Be sure to get it soon though -- it's a best seller, and might run out!

### John Frieda Weather Works Hair Serum

*DrugStore.com, \$5.50*

John Frieda has perfected the art of frizz-less hair. No matter what type of weather you find yourself in this December, be prepared by using this hair serum. By helping to lock

moisture in the cuticle of each hair strand and then keeping unwanted moisture out, you'll help keep your shining locks shining. Whether you're in and out of snow, rain, or the cold, dry nights of winter, every strand will look flawless. (Keep this product around for after the holidays too -- this survives high summer humidity better than any other product.)



Jennifer Souers  
The Finer Side



Jennifer Souers

**Happy Holidays to you:** Clockwise from top; Sephora by OPI Nail Lacquer in Madam President, Vincent Longo Wet Diamond Eye Shadow, tarte Double ended lipgloss, NARS lipstick in Tamango.



*Kimball Theatre*

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

## Movies

### Bottle Shock (PG-13)

Sat., Nov. 15—Thurs., Nov. 20

Shows at 7 and 9 p.m.

Nov. 15, 17-20 screening room (35 seats)

### In Search of a Midnight Kiss

Fri., Nov. 21—Wed., Nov. 26

Shows at 7 and 8:45 p.m.

Nov. 21-25 screening room (35 seats)

### The Lucky Ones (R)

Tues., Nov. 25—Mon., Dec. 1

Shows at 6:45 and 9 p.m.

Nov. 26-Dec. 1 screening room

### A Girl Cut in Two

Tues., Dec. 2—Mon., Dec. 8

Shows at 6:45 and 9 p.m.

Dec. 2, 4-8 screening room (35 seats)

## November Schedule

### Live Performances

#### Virginia Premier Theatre Presents: The Gift of the Magi

Preview Performances: Nov. 21-23 at 7:30 p.m.

All Seats \$18

Dec. 2, 5, 12, 19 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9, 16. at 3 p.m.; Dec. 10, 17 at 5 p.m.

Adults \$25, Seniors/Students \$20, Children under 12 \$10

#### Dean Shostak's Crystal Concert

Nov. 5—21, M,W,F at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

All seats \$7

#### Dean Shostak's Crystal Carols Concert

Nov. 24—Jan. 3, M,W,F at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

All seats \$10

#### Christmas with the Coyotes

Fri., Nov. 28—Sun., Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$18, Seniors/Students \$15, Children under 12 \$12

#### The Williamsburg Symphonia Presents: Williamsburg Symphonia Holiday Pops Concert

Sat., Dec. 6 at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets \$20

Sun., Dec. 7 at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tickets \$25



## Nooks &amp; Crannies of William and Mary

## The Sundial that stands the test of time

Nicole Ciarapica

Contributor

When the William and Mary students of today need to know the time, they look at their cell phones, watches, ThinkPads, Macs, or at a clock on the wall. But it wasn't always this way. Once upon a time in the early 18th century, the College in Williamsburg and all of its town residents were dependent on a sundial to tell the local time every day. This sundial was used to check the accuracy of the clock in the bell tower that, in a time of no traffic noises, could be heard throughout the town. But in the following centuries, technology had completely replaced the practical use of the sundial and now it stands in the Zollinger Museum of Swem Library. And with its long existence full of mystery and more, the sundial is well-deserving of this ornamental, more glamorous new home.

The mystery surrounding the sundial is that where and from whom it came from is not known for sure. Educated guesses of experts in the field have all concluded that it was likely made in London in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. King William and Queen Mary probably had it specially designed for Williamsburg, because the latitude and longitude are accurate for the area. Another indicator is that the main hour ring is divided into one-minute intervals. But what makes the sundial so unique is that in addition to the main hour ring, it has six subsidiary rings that give the local time in London, Vienna, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Barbados, and Mexico City.

Whether it was made with the intent to survive war, fire, vandalism, or neglect is uncertain, but the sundial definitely has outlasted all of the above. The sundial was sent away for protection twice, during the War of 1812 and the Civil War. In 1815, it was returned and placed in front of the President's House, where in 1859 it survived one of the Wren building fires. In June 1912,

The Flat Hat society donated a column on a three foot base to support the sundial, and it was moved to the Wren Courtyard. Over the course of the next sixty years it stood rather neglected. Its commemorative plaque was removed in 1940 and the gnomon, the piece that casts the shadow, was stolen by vandals sometime between 1953 and 1956. On top of that, the sun's rays were blocked by tall trees nearby. In 1971, the dark cloud over the sundial disappeared and it began to be admired and appreciated again. Dr. Davis Paschall, President of the College at the time, commented, "In passing the historic sundial I would often stop and reflect on its significance in the time of the College and hoped someday it could again be displayed worthy of its heritage."

Dr. George W. Crawford, Professor of Physics Emeritus, began the sundial's worthy restoration. He designed a temporary gnomon and tested the sundial's local time for a month, finding it to be correct. It was decided that the sundial would be placed in the Zollinger Museum for safe keeping, and Crawford designed a fiberglass replica in its place. This newer sundial is passed by the majority of the student body everyday in the center of the Academic Mall in front of Swem. Another replica was given by the class of 1937, which stands in front of the Alumni house.

W&M's original sundial has told the time for thousands of students and five presidents, some of whom have left engravings on its face. As W&M overachievers, the readers of this article may now be eager to go figure out the time on the sundial just as past presidents did. It involves understanding that if a sundial, located on the



Alec McKinley

**A bright history:** The very recognizable sundial that is located outside of Swem library is rumored to have been constructed in England expressly for William and Mary

75 degree meridian, gave local time that agreed with standard or clock time, the sundial at 76 degrees, 42 feet West longitude would be 6 minutes 48 seconds slower than standard time which is four minutes x 1.7= 6.8 minutes. It's a long and complicated process to go through, but today you could instead just look at your cell phone.

## Sal's by Victor fails with Italian staple, succeeds with incredible subs

Matt Pinsker

Food Critic

Sal's by Victor, established in 1974 and located next to Bloom, has a reputation for great Italian food with student-friendly prices. I stopped by for lunch to see if it could live up to all the hype.

The interior was well decorated and appeared both casual and upscale. The restaurant had a unique atmosphere that is difficult to define. Soft Italian music was playing in the background and a professional soccer game was being broadcast on the television. The walls had framed photos of the staff, and a single Roman column was standing on its own in the middle of the restaurant. Across from it, a glass refrigerator held a tasty assortment of desserts.

I seated myself, and was quickly greeted by my server. For the duration of my stay she did a great job and had a very down-to-earth demeanor. As I looked over the menu, I saw the usual Italian dishes including marsalas, parmigianas and pastas. The prices looked very fair and affordable for students. I was unable to decide between chicken marsala (\$7.59) and the veal parmigiana. My server recommended the less expensive chicken marsala, which left me impressed with her honesty and care for the customer; far too often servers push the more expensive items.

I went with the chicken marsala, but started with small garlic bread (\$1) as an appetizer. The garlic bread came out on an open faced cut of sub-sandwich bread. It was toasted with butter, large, and served hot. The garlic itself was spread on the bread in the powdered form and was delicious.

I did not have to wait long before my chicken marsala came out. Unfortunately, I was very disappointed and did not enjoy it at all. I will even go as far as to say that it was bad. The chicken itself was thin, stringy, and lacking in flavor and the spaghetti it was served on absorbed very little of the marsala flavor.

I still had an appetite, and knowing Sal's by Victor's reputation, I wanted to give them another chance. Instead of another entree, I ordered half of a veal cutlet parmigiana sub (\$3.79). A full sub would have been \$7, but to my delight the half serving was an enormous portion, especially for that price. The fried veal was delicious, the bread was hot, and there was the right balance of cheese and tomato sauce. This sub really hit the spot and left a smile on my face.

Sal's has a great atmosphere and awesome staff. Although the chicken marsala, a signature dish for Italian restaurants everywhere, was an utter failure and disappointment, the sub could not have possibly been more perfect.

## Jessica Lea Mayfield's debut 'blasphemes' love but remains forgettable

Jack Evans

Music Critic

Jessica Lea Mayfield's album was released about two months ago, and I just got around to listening to it the other day. But I'm not the only one who's been sleeping on her debut, With Blasphemy So Heartfelt. I've seen a few MP3s posted on blog sites, but other than that it has been largely overlooked. That's too bad, because this is a unique sounding folk-rock album, despite its many imperfections.

Whenever this gal's name does get mentioned, she is compared to Mazzy Star's Hope Sandoval. Fair enough. Still, for me Sandoval is like an ethereal-voiced spirit lover that visits you late at night when you are half-asleep, but is always gone by the time you actually feel her touch and open your eyes. Ms. Mayfield, on the other hand, is like the drunk girl you accidentally hooked up with on your friend's couch last night. Notice that tremor in her voice when she sings, "You can touch me if you wanna / Oh I don't really care" on the opening track, "Kiss Me Again." There

is something disgustingly attainable about her. Of course, in that same song she also sings, "You've got me where you want me but I'm not all there." Great line. Puts me back in my place.

With Blasphemy So Heartfelt's middle section kind of drags. It's just too much of the same thing. You can only take the whole "I don't know the meaning of love" and "I deserve to be dead" theme so far. But at least these songs all sound good. Dan Auerbach, one half of The Black Keys, handles the production, and his guitar playing adds some interesting textures to a couple of otherwise forgettable songs. "The One That I Love Best" is particularly striking. It's alt-country with a hypnotic, almost krautrock pulse. It sounds like nothing I have ever heard before.

The best moment on the album is the chorus of "For Today," where Ms. Mayfield sings, "I could care less about you / And I love the sound of you walking away" over some perfectly executed guitar feedback. It hits like a punch in the gut. Nothing else on the album is as triumphant or as empowering.

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*All the news that's fit to go online.*



Staff Editorials:

# Student fees should be fully broken down

Last year, William and Mary English Professor Terry Myers asserted in an editorial in the National Crosstalk that “it’s not just tuition that is driving up the price of an education. It is also fees -- and more villainously, because they are so often hidden.” This reality is acutely present at our own institution and unfortunately appears to be on the rise. Today, both in-state and out-of-state students pay immense sums of money each semester in fees -- \$2,183 and \$2,780, respectively.

We understand the need for additional fees to finance items at the College other than what can be satisfied through tuition. What we do not understand is why the immense fees that students pay each semester is not fully broken down on e-bill statements, or even William and Mary’s own financial operations Web site. The present fee structure at William and Mary is a cause of concern for many, and to outsiders it appears that these some of these fees are hidden. State budget cuts necessitate that the College realign its spending priorities, and students and their parents should be informed as to why they continue to fork over large sums of money. As it stands on William and Mary’s financial

operations Web site, only the \$1,668 general fee is broken down to as to where it is allocated. Further, none of the fees are broken down on the actual bill students’ bill statements.

The Informer has learned that the \$363.50 facility fee listed on the Financial Operations Web site, though not broken down, is actually being spent by the College to finance a number of new campus buildings, to include the financing of the Integrated Science Center, the new business school and the Rec Center. When asked if he thought that this fee should be broken down, Vice President for Finance Sam Jones agreed that “we should be able to include a footnote similar to that used for the general fee to give a more detailed breakdown.” However, he neglected to confirm whether or not such action would actually be taken, despite repeated attempts to determine his level of commitment to this aspect of reform.

We anticipate that the Board of Visitors will increase both tuition and fees next spring. This necessitates that the College institute further transparency and completely break down where all fees are allocated on student bills.

# The two faces of Clyde Haulman

Williamsburg Vice Mayor Clyde Haulman’s attacks on William and Mary students and College administrators at a recent city council meeting were absurd, unfounded and blatantly hypocritical.

At a recent Students for a Better Williamsburg event, Mr. Haulman told the student audience that Williamsburg residents staunchly opposing any changes to the three-person rule needed to come to grips with the fact that “they live in a college town.” These laudable sentiments, especially coming from the vice mayor, raised hopes that change to the three-person rule could be achieved.

However, in front of an audience of older residents the following day, Mr. Haulman warned that off-campus renting by students has had “devastating effects” for the “residential neighborhoods” in Williamsburg, to which the College has “consistently turned a blind eye.” His depiction of the “trashing” of Williamsburg communities — citing an outbreak of gigantic 200-person house parties in “virtually every neighborhood” with “shouts and cursing at all hours of the night,” “drunks vomiting and urinating on lawns and bushes,” “trash littering entire blocks,” “cars being vandalized,” “windshields smashed,” “mirrors broken” and cars careening across lawns -- was outlandish. These exaggerated images seem more appropriate for describing violent inner city riots than the quiet streets of Williamsburg.

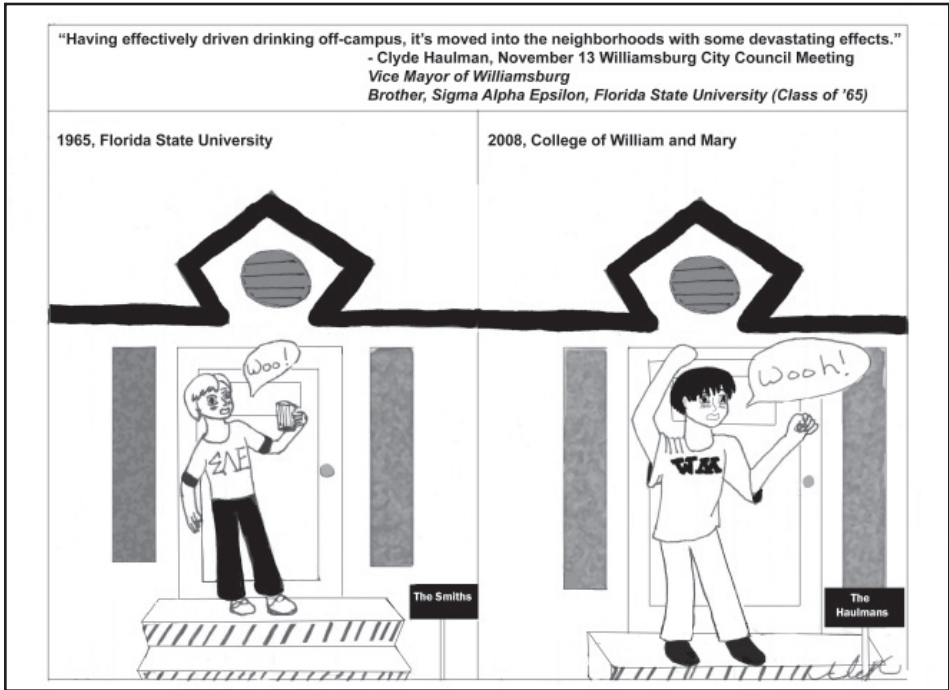
Mr. Haulman’s two-faced attitude has the effect of destroying student trust in joint SA-City Council efforts to reform the three-person rule, and further reinforces students’ long-standing

perception that many city officials harbor ill will toward the student body.

However, Mr. Haulman’s disparaging remarks about the Steer Clear service were most troubling. He referred to the program derisively as “the drunk van” for “students too drunk to stagger three or four blocks back to campus” — as if Steer Clear was a gratuitous or unnecessary luxury that encourages students to engage in irresponsible behavior. Perhaps Mr. Haulman could clarify his remarks, as it is unthinkable that he would intentionally attack a program expressly designed to reduce the occurrence of drunk driving, and which has undoubtedly saved lives by giving alternatives to intoxicated students who might otherwise have gotten behind the wheel.

In addition, it is interesting to note that Mr. Haulman was also a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity when he attended Florida State University, which consistently ranks in the top ten “party schools” according to the Princeton Review. It is one thing for a person unfamiliar with the party scenes of bigger schools to view William and Mary students’ weekend festivities with alarm, but it is unclear how someone like Mr. Haulman — who would seemingly be familiar with what a real party school is actually like — could mistake William and Mary for such an environment.

We call on Mr. Haulman to clarify and explain his remarks about Steer Clear and his perception of the student body. Further, the vice mayor should apologize for his disingenuous remarks -- though whether to students or to residents is a matter for Mr. Haulman’s conscience.



# Prop 8 is here to stay

This past Saturday was great. The weather was superb and the student body was provided with the thrill and amusement of Model UN high schoolers scrambling across campus. And then there was the College’s protest of California’s Proposition 8. Marching from the Crim Dell along Jamestown Road, one could hear them shouting slogans like “Hey, hey, ho, ho, Prop 8 has got to go!” and “2, 4, 6, 8 marriage should be yours and mine!” In case you have been under a rock over the past few weeks, Prop 8 is the amendment to the California State Constitution approved by 52 percent of California’s voters to restore the traditional definition of marriage in that state.

It goes without saying that these protesters were fully within their rights to hold this event, even if students studying outside were mildly annoyed by the disturbance. No one is challenging their right to voice their opinion or express their political views. I do, however, dispute the way that these protesters attempt to immunize themselves from criticism by brandishing signs saying “love does not discriminate,” or even that they themselves exemplify “love” and “tolerance.”



Kristin Coyner  
Opinion Editor

Much hay has been made in the national media, and even with the protesters here at the College, that supporters of Prop 8 are somehow hateful, displaying a lack of either love or tolerance. This narrative conveniently glosses over a number of occurrences across the country post-voters’ approval. A coalition of mostly white, wealthy individuals have instead acted to disrupt church services, to harass self-identified supporters of Prop 8 or to roam the streets in protest, as occurred at the College this past Saturday.

In contrast, supporters of Prop 8 represent a cross-ethnic, cross-partisan and cross-geographic coalition which had the audacity to turn out and express their opinion on the ballot in a peaceful vote. I would encourage members of the College community to not just swallow the pill that some 6,242,786 Californians were being “hateful” in casting their votes which expressed a clear disapproval of the creation of a new right for individuals. It is far more convenient to demonize those you disagree with rather than actually make an effort to understand where they are coming from or evaluate their position -- as well as your own -- on its merits.

## Thank you from all of us at The Virginia Informer

The Informer is an independent publication and does not receive any public funding, unlike other publications at William and Mary.

We would like to especially recognize some of our private supporters.

Mr. Richard Beard - Mr. Robert Beck  
Mr. Alberto Chalmeta  
Mr. John Gleie - Mr. Lance Kyle  
Mr. Sanford Whitwell

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## Letter to the Editor: Got turnout? Honor Code referendum should be on SA ballot

The Honor Council referendum failed. I'll admit that I'm pretty ambivalent about the changes themselves, having not read through the entire 15-page document. In fact, I'll go ahead and admit it -- I didn't read the document at all. I, like everyone else, got the e-mails mentioning that there was a referendum, and then I forgot about it until the night of the vote. And the only reason I remembered then was because I ran into a friend of mine urging a "no" vote on the referendum.

Given the vote totals (500 students or so), it looks like most of you were in my shoes that night -- you got the e-mails and then you forgot about it. Who can blame you? You were tired and busy and overworked. So was I. And this ignorance of the referendum vote isn't just an Honor Council problem -- it's a club problem. Clubs have a lot of trouble communicating with the student body at large. Compare that, for a moment, to the SA elections, where students flock to the polls in large numbers.

Beats me as to how we fix the general

problem of students being overworked, but I know exactly how the Honor Council can fix the turnout problems in the future. It's easy enough -- just put the referendum on the Honor Code during SA elections. Everyone will already be on SIN, and student voter turnout in SA elections usually amounts to a majority of the student body, not the roughly ten percent the Honor Council was able to muster for the vote on the Honor Code.

Of course, that means the Honor Code changes will get wrapped up in the election politics of the Student Assembly, with campaigns taking sides. And that would be a big problem, along with low-information voters carrying the day for one side or the other. Most

people are never going to take the time to read through the entire code. I don't think people usually perceive the Honor Code as having a major effect on their lives unless they're in front of the Honor Council. I think that's a wrong sentiment, but it's understandable. After all, we just don't hear much from the Honor Council. It's that communication problem again.



**DOUGLASS**

One of the main selling points for not passing the referendum was that voter turnout was going to be so low that it wouldn't be representative of the student body. And that makes sense because, honestly, I would not be comfortable with a system in which only a very small percentage of students vote. It is integral to have mass participation, and the best way to achieve such a goal is to actively promote the campaign by making it part of the SA spring elections. Nobody is better at turning out a lot of voters here at William and Mary than an SA campaign.

It's important to remember not to play the blame game, either. The Honor Council is dealing with an overinvolved student body who usually deletes every school-related e-mail they get anyway, and, as stated above, the student body is dealing with a set of changes to a code they feel will never really affect them. By placing future Honor Code-related referenda on the SA ballot, turnout and relevancy will be better ensured.

Michael Douglass  
SA Senator Class of 2011

## Pub Council reform highlights the College's need for transparency

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once famously quipped, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." Justice Brandeis, a man of supreme insight, was referring to the positive effects of transparency and openness in the public sphere. In America, we cherish the concept of citizen ownership of government. As taxpayers, you and I literally foot the bill for the functions of government, and in this sense, we collectively own it. As stakeholders, we have the right to know exactly how our government operates and how our tax dollars are spent. Transparency is not only our right but, as Justice Brandeis noted, is also an essential vehicle for change and improvement. Recent events at the College of William have reminded us once again how vitally important transparency is to the continued health of our community.

In the spring of 2008, *Lips: Expressions of Female Sexuality*, a feminist publication, was denied a place on the College's publication council. While many initially believed that this denial stemmed from the controversial content of the magazine, the real reasons behind the decision became clear over time. Miscommunication and misinformation left both *Lips* and the Publications Council in a lurch, as neither body quite understood what was expected of them. The decision to reject *Lips*' request ultimately hinged on confusion as to whether the committee's by-laws even permitted the body to grant seed funding to new publications. Although these by-laws had been unclear for years and council had acted in good faith, the publicity generated by the *Lips* decision propelled Publications Council into the sunlight. Recognizing the need for major reform, the Publication Council has chosen the route of transparency and openness. The revision of the council's by-laws is now being undertaken as a collaborative effort. Students are welcomed into the reform process, and the Council is actively obtaining input from the Student Assembly and the editor of *Lips* herself. Sunlight not only brought the Publication Council's structural issues to the attention of concerned students, but is now also acting to ensure that these problems are solved in a way that best serves the students.

The *Lips* funding debacle should serve as an important lesson to students. Even after the *Lips* controversy came to light, reform was not necessarily a given. Although the Publications Council is to be commended for their willingness to open up the process, Publications Council reform has come about largely because students demanded accountability. It is incumbent upon students to insist that our university act in an open and transparent manner, as to reveal problems and opportunities for improvement. And when sunlight does reveal such problems, students themselves must take steps to disinfect.



**Braum Katz**  
Staff Writer

## Ignorance and arrogance on display in attacks on Veterans Day

The Veterans Day celebration was a success. The simple fact that a Veterans Day event of such magnitude was held at William and Mary in the first place is remarkable. Unbeknownst to most students, it was the first time a coalition of organizations, student and veteran, came together to recognize veterans of various demographics and the first time in generations that a William and Mary organization had held a significant event for Veterans Day on the undergraduate campus.

I do want to share a few facts that others have chosen not to share with the student population. The paintball tournament, which was the focus of much opposition, resulted in a \$100 donation for Toys for Tots. The American Legion, Hispanic Cultural Organization, Filipino Cultural Organization, George Mason Veterans, ROTC, Korean Student Association, Prime Tribe and others made the event a success, sending a powerful message of unity and support beyond the student community. In addition, the College Republicans and Young Democrats joined forces to organize a banner signing and care package collection campaign.

Hundreds of students had an amazing time in the so-called "Megarena." However, the event's paintball activity, although used for a good cause, became the focus of vocal opposition from a small minority on campus. Certainly, the American Legion did not find the event offensive, but a great success.

It seems logical that non-veteran critics who write with cowardice in student publications and feel so passionately about Veterans Day would organize their own event or, at the very least, collaborate with others in order to honor the veterans they claim to care so much about. Is it too much to ask for these "supporters" to give a few weeks to plan a Veterans Day event, in light of everything veterans have sacrificed to protect the rights they so easily take for granted? Yet the fact that they expend so much energy and resources in attacking the only Veterans Day event on campus seems to suggest they have

different motives.

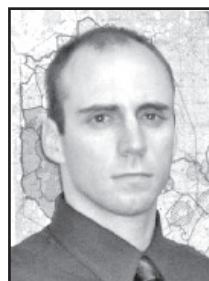
Let's just ignore the fact that paintball has nothing to do with warfare, but was created more than 20 years ago to test survival and hunting skills. Forget the fact that we are supporting veterans and that the American Legion, Veterans Society, George Mason Veterans, ROTC, Coast Guard Auxiliary and countless other veterans, active duty and retired military supported the event and took part in its planning and execution. I suppose the opinion of *The Flat Hat's* editorial board holds more weight on this issue.

These individuals did not earn the right to tell veterans, especially combat veterans, how they should bring Veterans Day to the students. I was fighting brutal insurgents in 125-degree heat and losing dear friends in Iraq while most critics were freshmen in high school, more worried about what their sweet 16 birthday would be like. It is insulting that they think they can even begin to comprehend what we went through.

Those who choose to speak about something they can never truly comprehend demonstrate not only ignorance, but supreme arrogance. Moreover, they demean what I and others have suffered through by suggesting that such a hellish experience can be trivialized through a fun sport.

Those who have not served, experienced combat or, at the very least, earned the right to wear the uniform, have no place to lecture about honor to those who have. At the very least, one should express their concerns in person, rather than through a student newspaper.

Our men and women in uniform are dying every day to provide us with the security that so many of us, secure in our luxurious bubble, take for granted. The least one can do, regardless whether one agrees with the war or the methods used to support the troops, is thank them. To my knowledge, few have taken the time to utter the two syllables -- "Thank you" -- to a veteran on this campus.



**Lance Zaal**  
Guest Columnist



# Humor column: Welcome to “The Party House”

Jon San and Alex Mayer  
Managing Editor and Executive Editor

Dear Clyde Haulman:

After reading about your comments regarding the epidemic of “200-plus person parties” in “virtually every neighborhood” in Williamsburg, we regret to inform you that no such “Party House” currently exists. However, in keeping with the reputation of William and Mary professors, your remarks have inspired us. Williamsburg may not exactly be the ideal “college party town,” but the imagined “Party House” that you envisioned needs to become a reality.

In order to prevent such intolerable behavior from infecting further areas of the Williamsburg community, we will offer a single location for mega-parties each weekend. This Temple of Debauchery will include the following amenities:

- 1) Artificial bushes which will serve as designated receptacles for “drunks vomiting and urinating.”
- 2) 24-hour Drunk Bus service will be provided for party attendees. Due to the significantly higher number of students that will be attending, we can no longer simply rely on two Student Activities “Drunk Vans,” but instead will introduce a fleet of school buses to better facilitate transportation.
- 3) Instead of allowing trash to “litter entire blocks,” we will pile the trash into a single pyre, douse it with lighter fluid, and burn it on the premises.
- 4) Several cars for “vandalizing” and “window smashing” purposes will be parked on the lawn. Sledgehammers will be provided.
- 5) Sleeping pills and horse tranquilizers will be distributed to neighboring residents free of charge so that they will be able to sleep through the din of “shouts and cursing at all hours of the night.”

As a brother of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Florida State University, we are convinced that you are well-versed in this type of environment -- one might even say that you’d be returning to your undergraduate roots. We would be honored by your presence, and think it only fitting that you help us christen the inaugural celebration this coming weekend at the new “Party House,” located at 110 Harrison Avenue. We’re pretty sure you know how to get there.

Cheers,

*The Party People*

